

Serial No. 10/735,973
Filed: December 15, 2003

REMARKS

A Notice of Incomplete Nonprovisional Application was issued March 17, 2004. The Notice indicated that the application was incomplete because, it was deposited without drawings and because the oath or declaration was unsigned.

Drawings

The specification has been amended to remove references to the drawing Figures. The drawings are not necessary to understand the invention. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

This Preliminary Amendment is accompanied by a petition in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(e) for grant of the December 15, 2003, as the filing date of the application on the basis that drawings are not necessary under 35 U.S.C. § 113 for an understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented.

Declaration and Power of Attorney

The application was filed with an unsigned declaration and power of attorney. An executed declaration and power of attorney is enclosed.

Fees

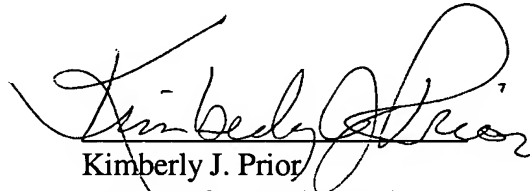
This Amendment is accompanied by the petition fee of \$130.00. No additional fees are believed due. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficit, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2525.

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The foregoing amendment, petition, and declaration are fully responsive to the Notice of Incomplete Nonprovisional Application issued March 17, 2004. Applicants submit that the application is entitled to a filing date of December 15, 2003, and that claims 1 to 43 are allowable. Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes there are other issues that can be resolved by telephone interview, or that there are any informalities remaining in the application which may be corrected by Examiner's Amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly J. Prior", is written over a horizontal line.

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